

THE NISSAN ROGUE

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HEROES

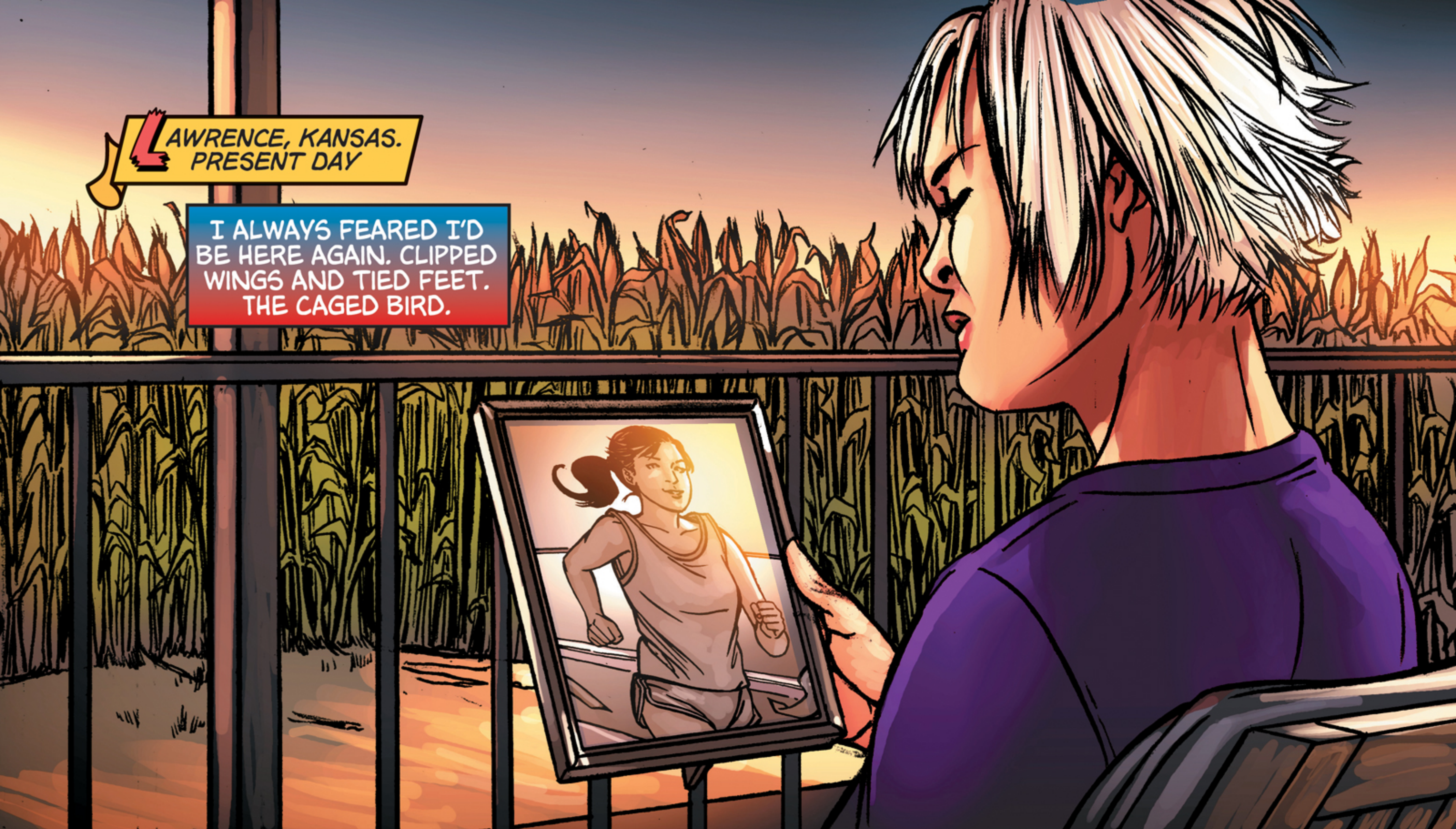
CHAPTER 113

THE CAGED BIRD

Daphne's life grinds to a halt when a second eclipse leaves her powerless and devastated; trapped in a place she never wished to return.

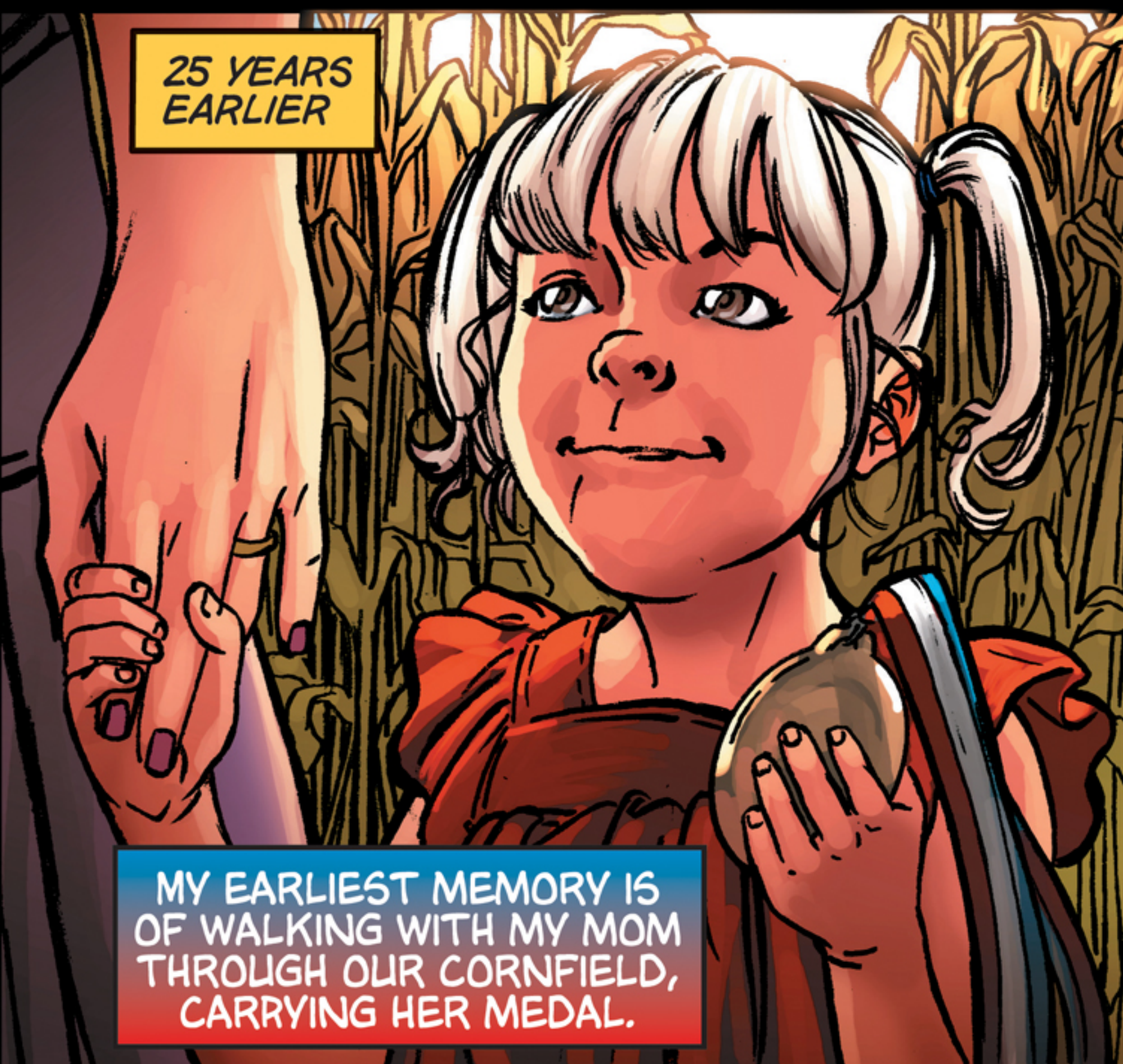
LAWRENCE, KANSAS.
PRESENT DAY

I ALWAYS FEARED I'D
BE HERE AGAIN. CLIPPED
WINGS AND TIED FEET.
THE CAGED BIRD.

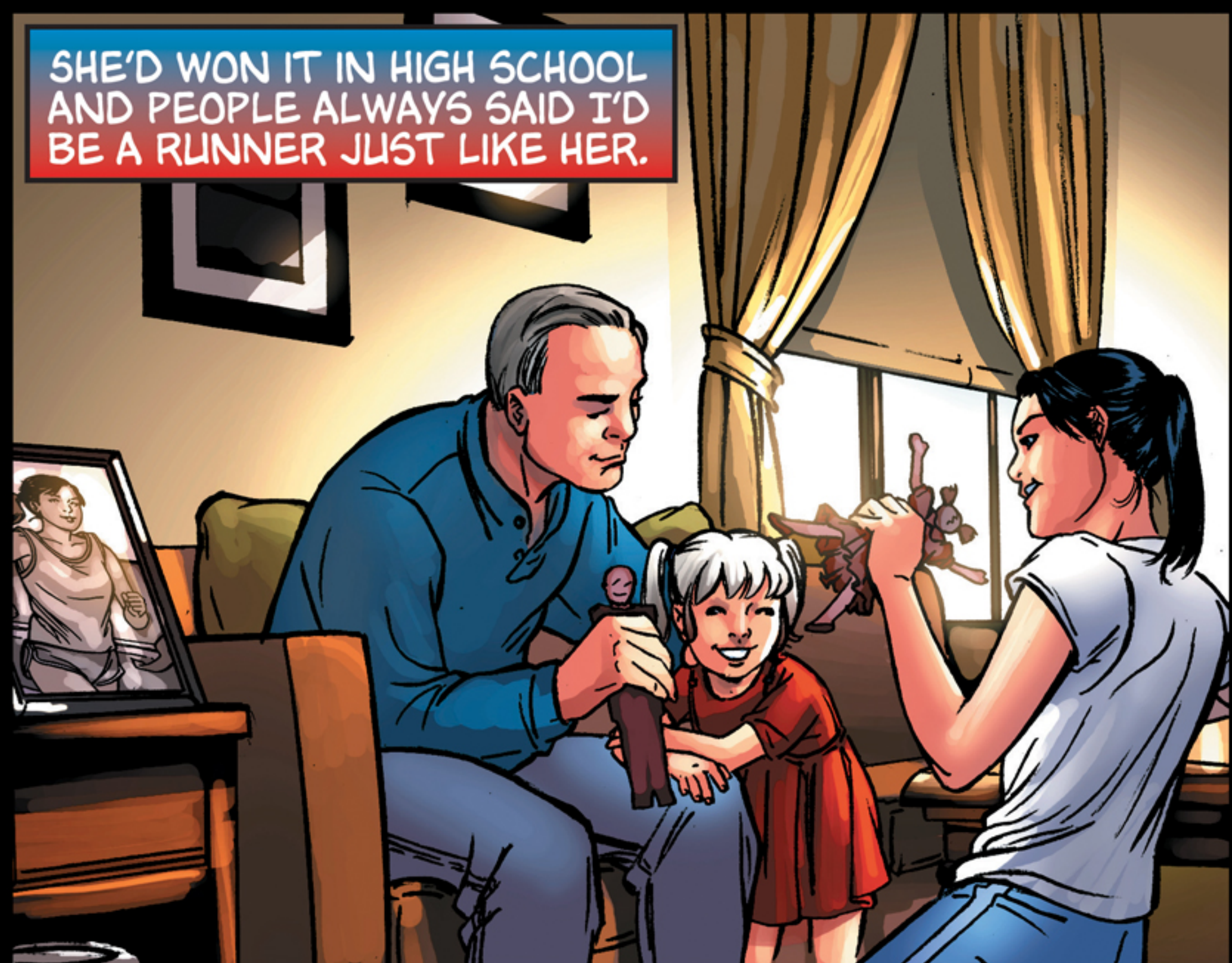


25 YEARS
EARLIER

MY EARLIEST MEMORY IS
OF WALKING WITH MY MOM
THROUGH OUR CORNFIELD,
CARRYING HER MEDAL.



SHE'D WON IT IN HIGH SCHOOL
AND PEOPLE ALWAYS SAID I'D
BE A RUNNER JUST LIKE HER.

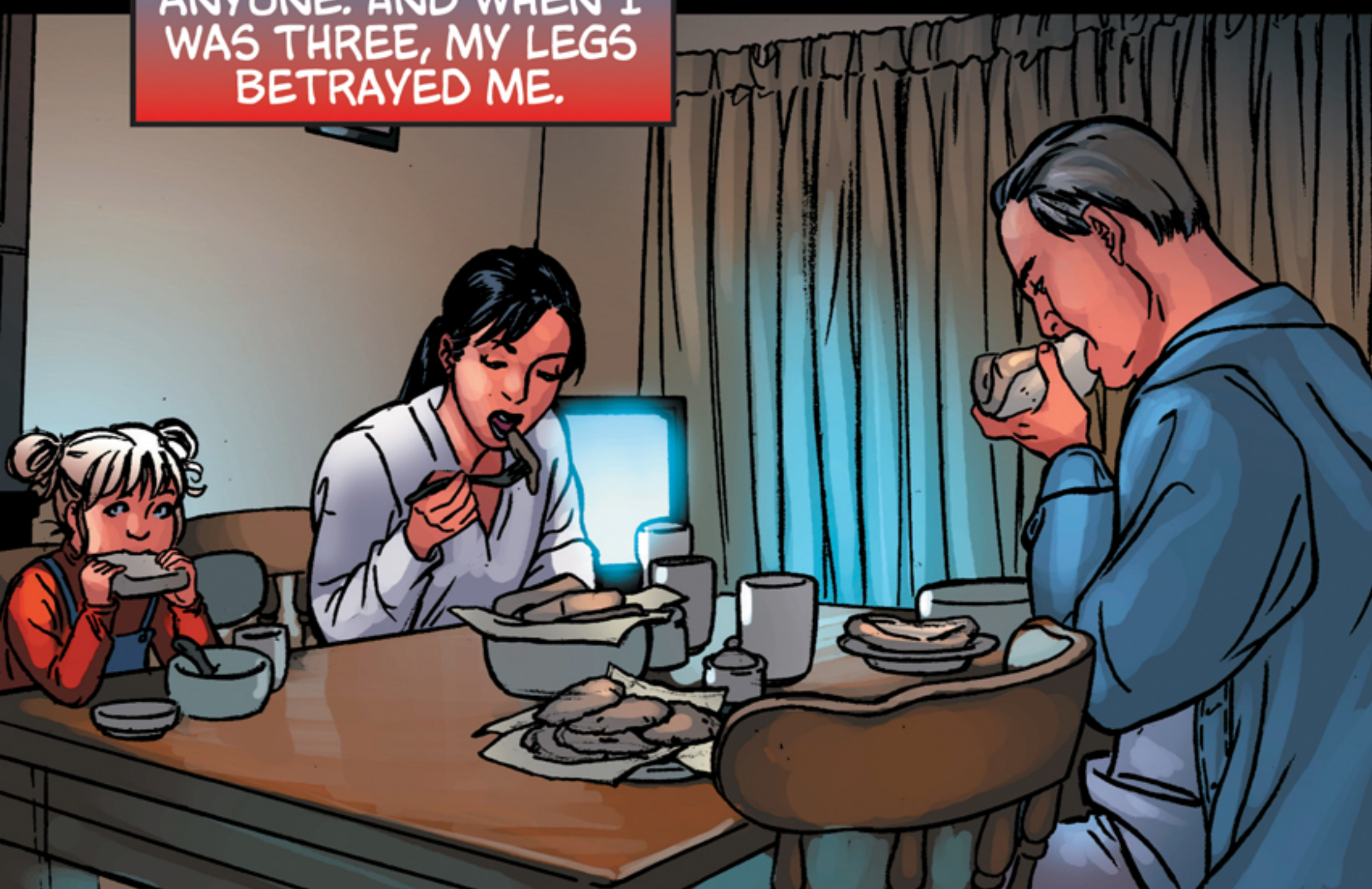


24 YEARS LATER

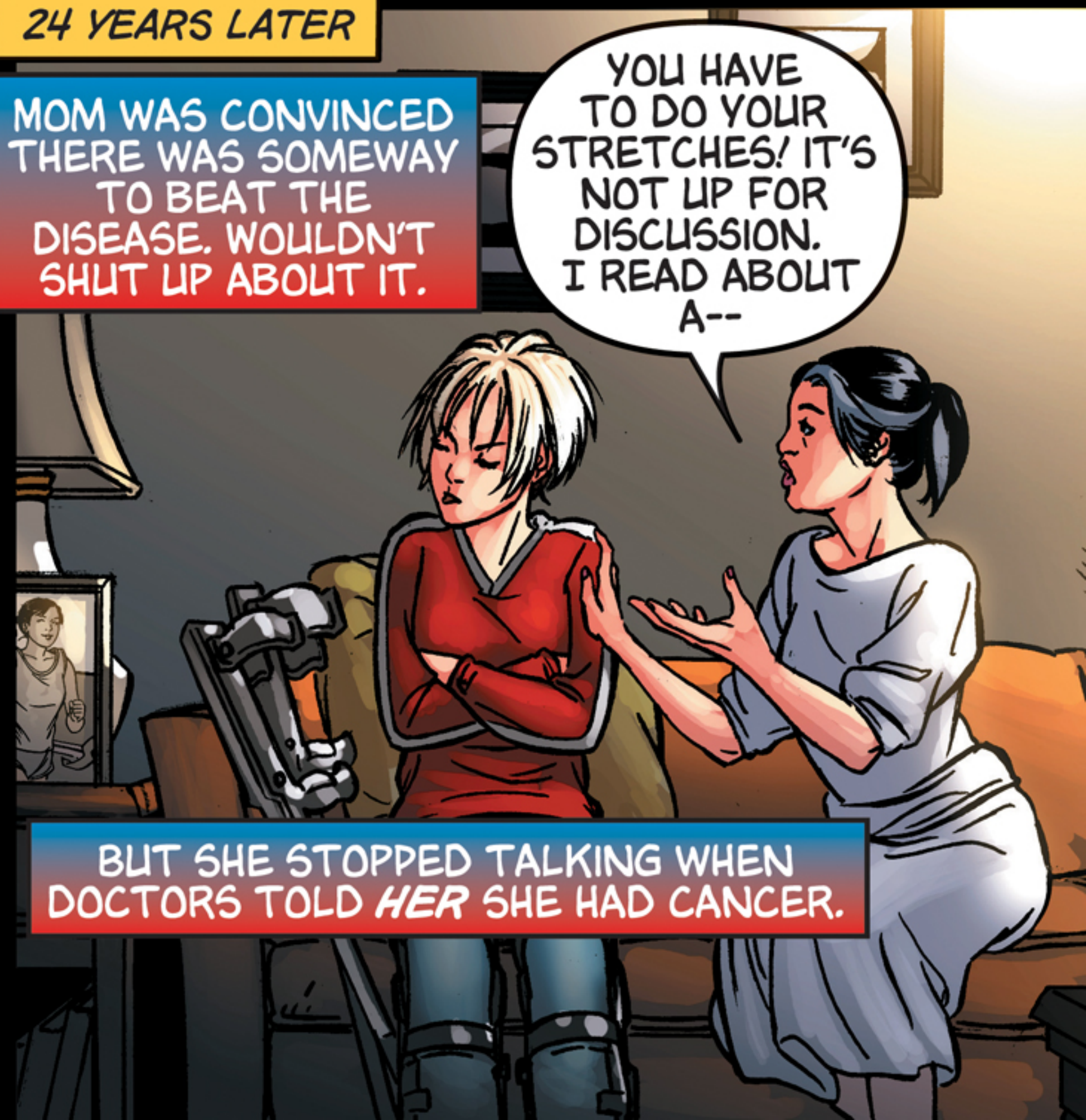
MOM WAS CONVINCED
THERE WAS SOMEWAY
TO BEAT THE
DISEASE. WOULDN'T
SHUT UP ABOUT IT.

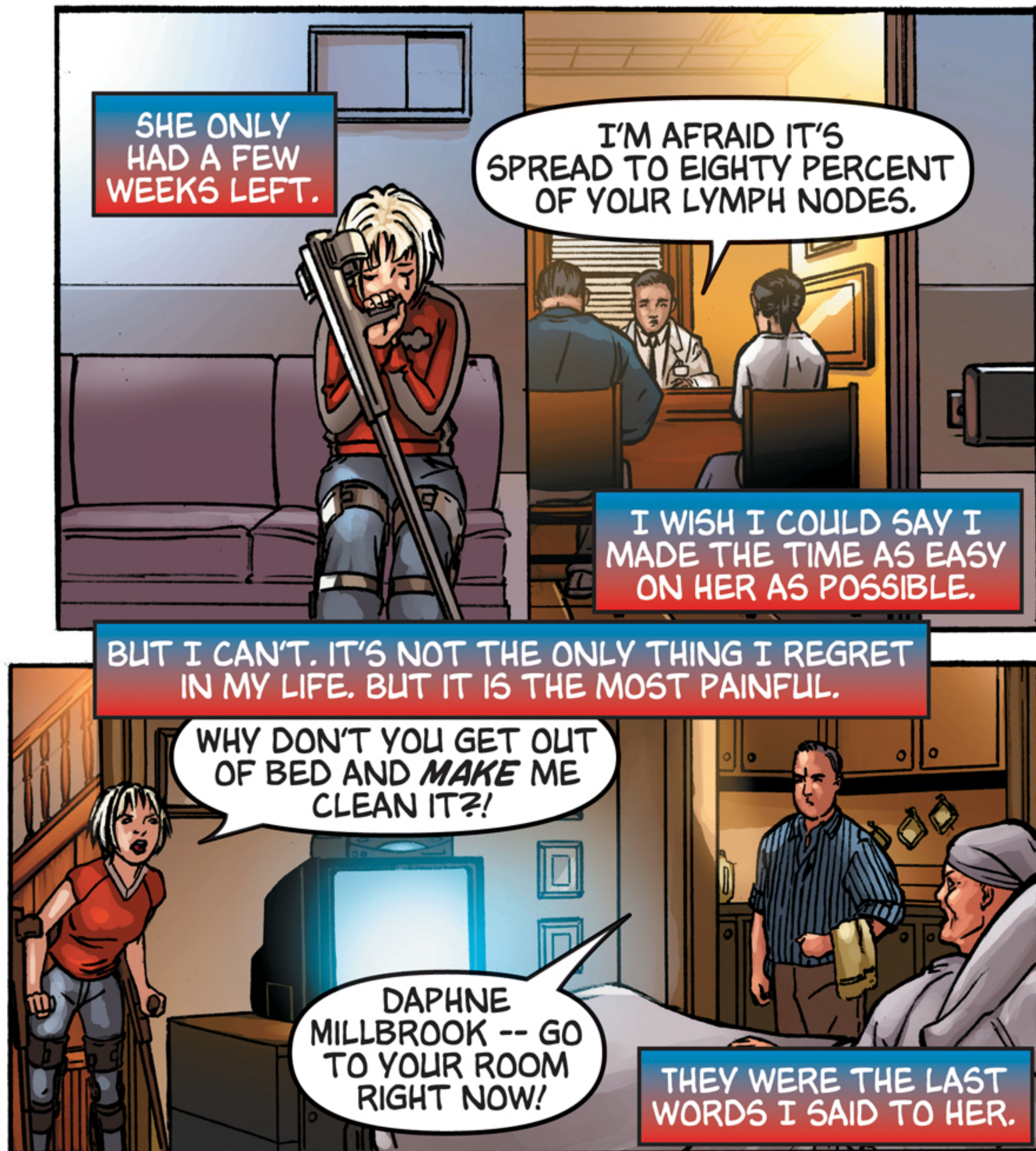
YOU HAVE
TO DO YOUR
STRETCHES! IT'S
NOT UP FOR
DISCUSSION.
I READ ABOUT
A--

BUT YOU CAN'T TRUST
ANYONE. AND WHEN I
WAS THREE, MY LEGS
BETRAYED ME.



BUT SHE STOPPED TALKING WHEN
DOCTORS TOLD *HER* SHE HAD CANCER.





SHE ONLY
HAD A FEW
WEEKS LEFT.

I'M AFRAID IT'S
SPREAD TO EIGHTY PERCENT
OF YOUR LYMPH NODES.

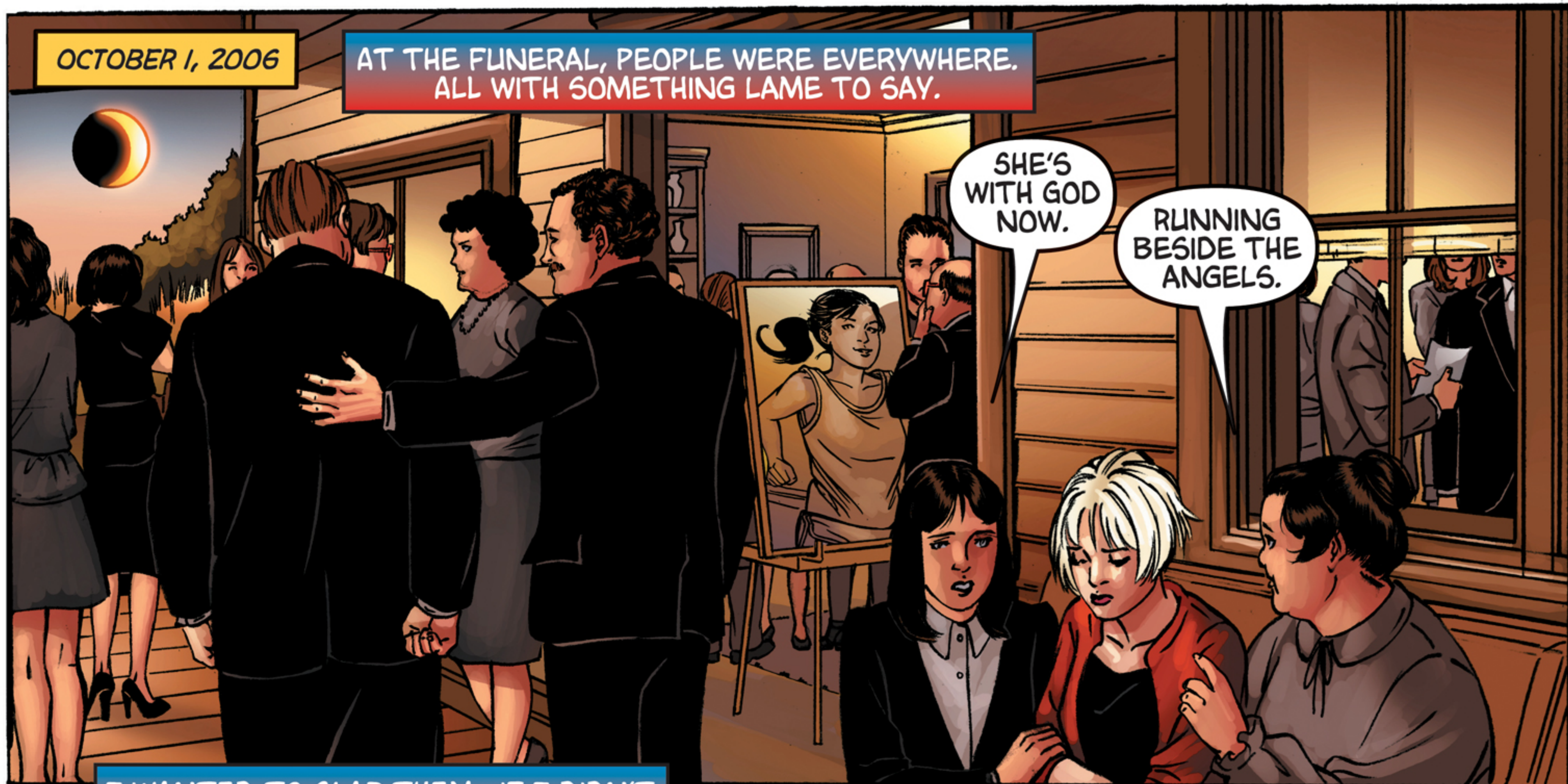
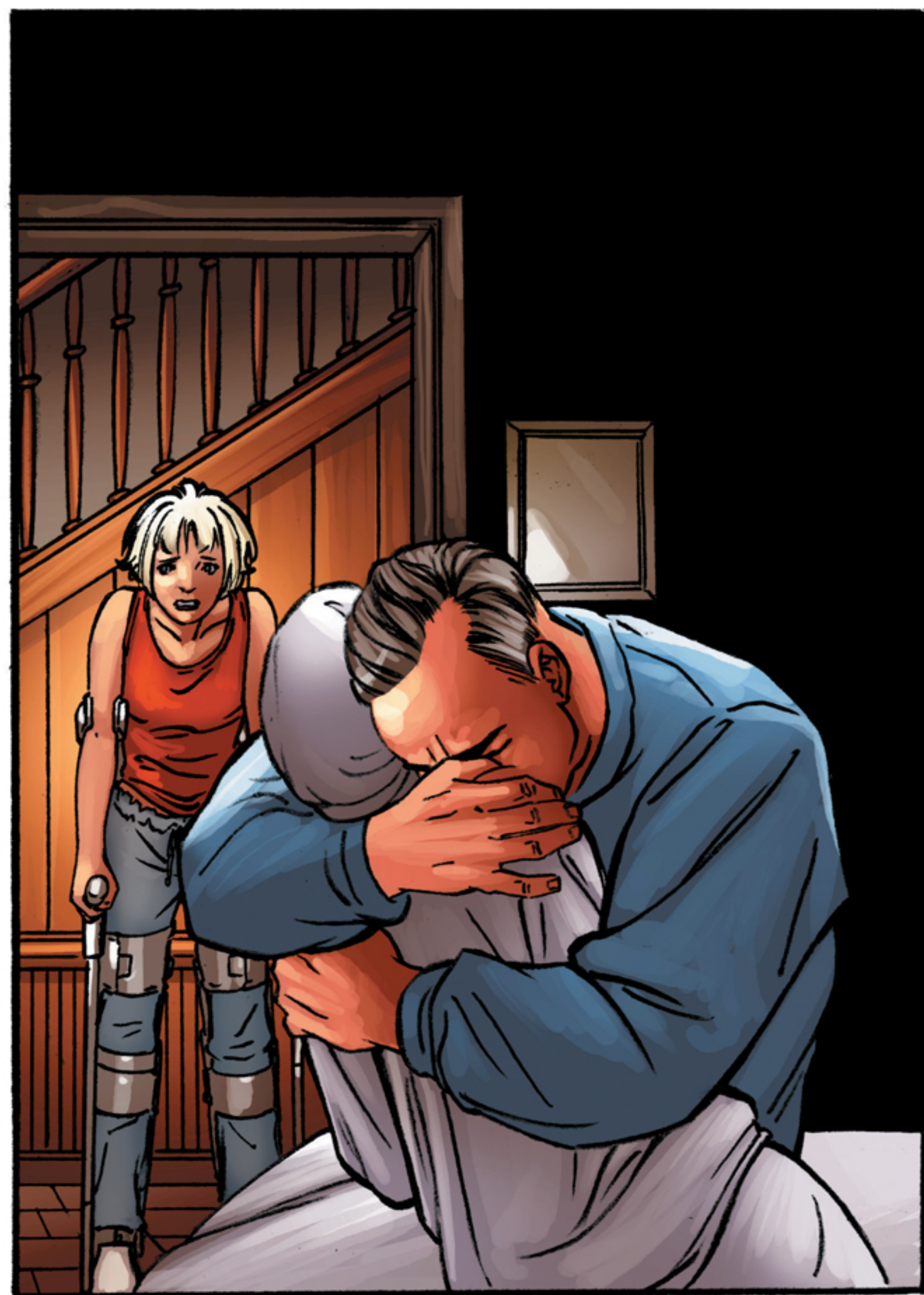
I WISH I COULD SAY I
MADE THE TIME AS EASY
ON HER AS POSSIBLE.

BUT I CAN'T. IT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I REGRET
IN MY LIFE. BUT IT IS THE MOST PAINFUL.

WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT
OF BED AND **MAKE** ME
CLEAN IT?!

DAPHNE
MILLBROOK -- GO
TO YOUR ROOM
RIGHT NOW!

THEY WERE THE LAST
WORDS I SAID TO HER.



OCTOBER 1, 2006

AT THE FUNERAL, PEOPLE WERE EVERYWHERE.
ALL WITH SOMETHING LAME TO SAY.

SHE'S
WITH GOD
NOW.

RUNNING
BESIDE THE
ANGELS.

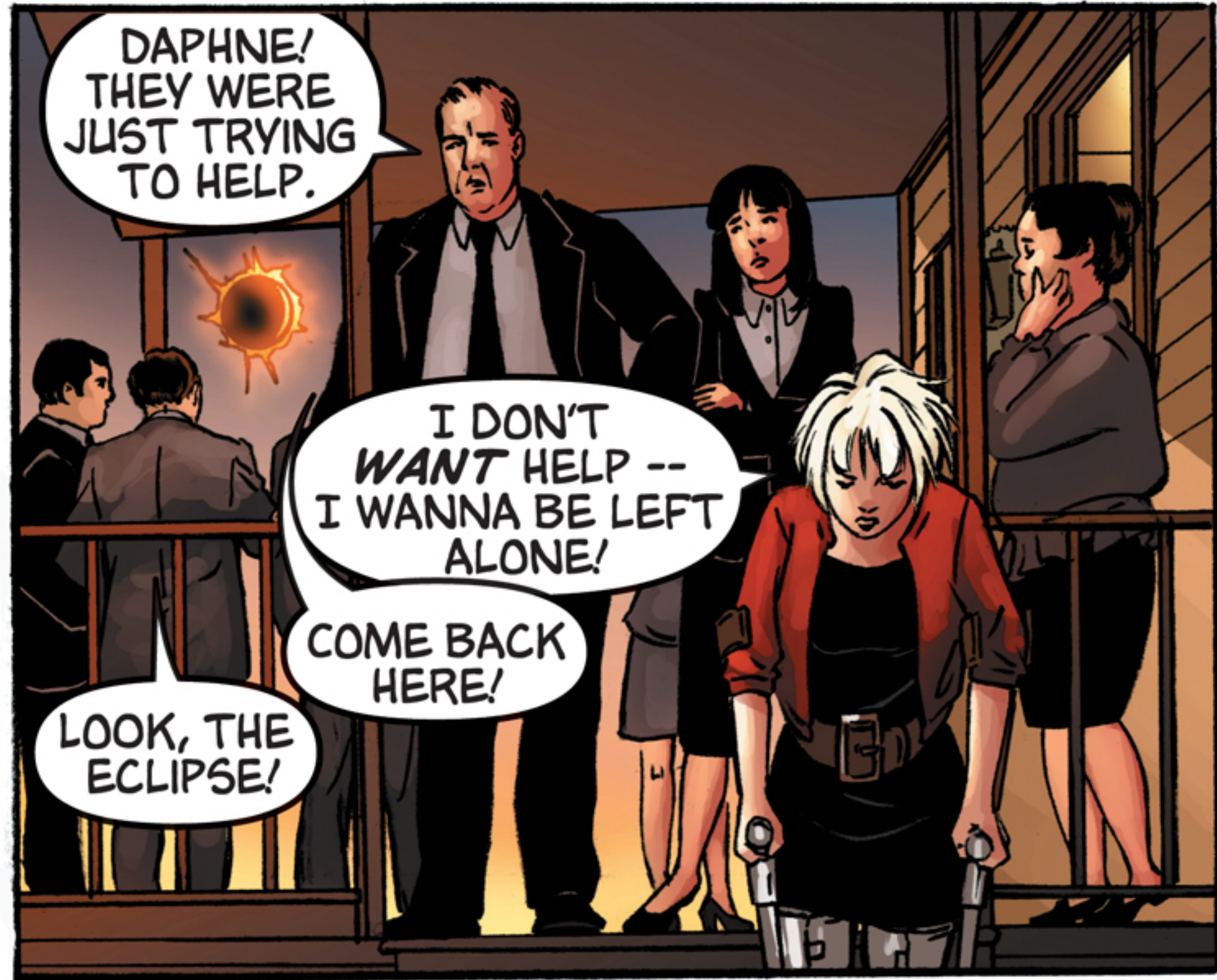
I WANTED TO SLAP THEM. IF I DIDN'T
GET AWAY, I WAS GOING TO LOSE IT.



OH, DEAR,
LET US --

YOU POOR
THING.

DON'T
TOUCH ME --
I'M FINE!

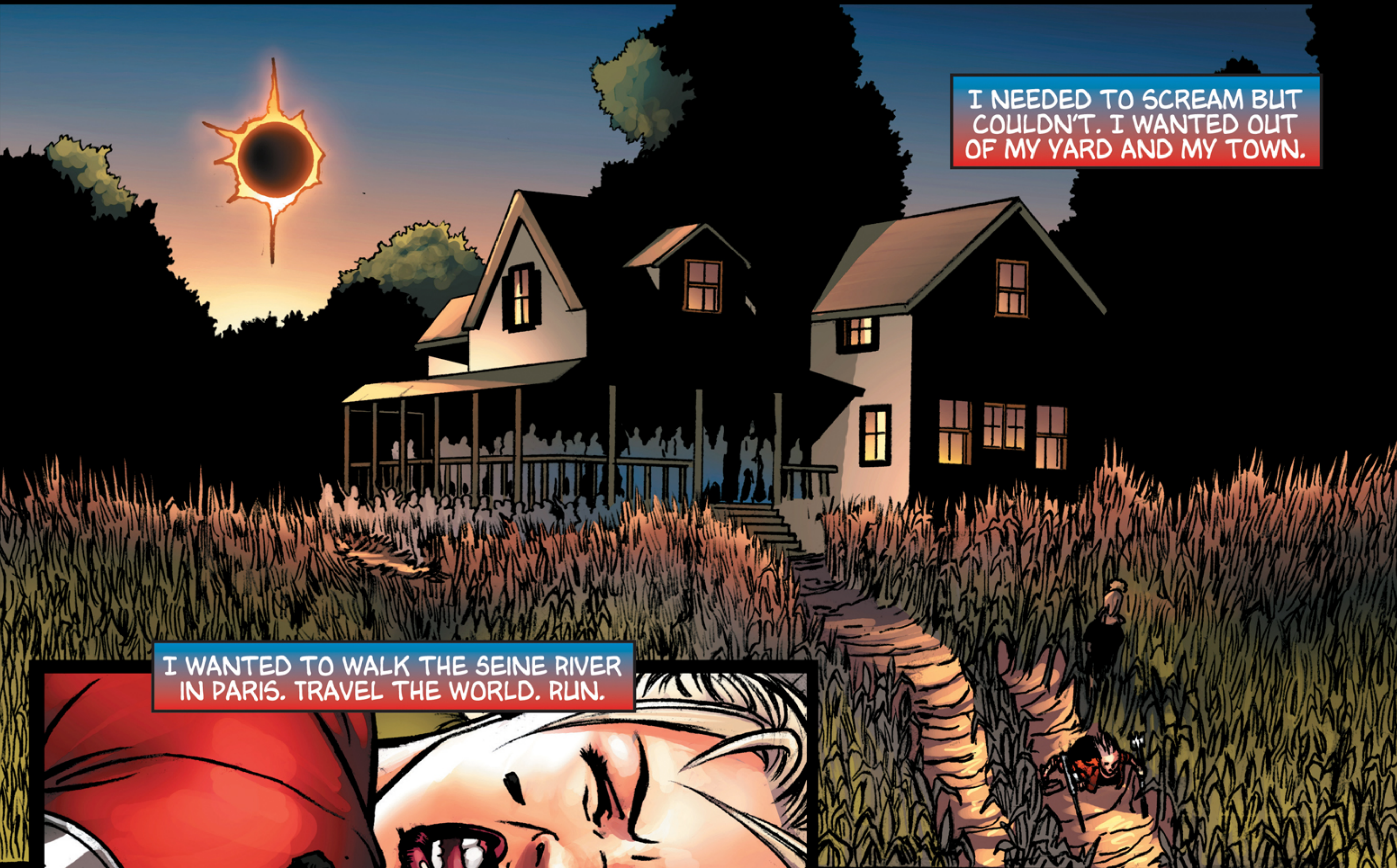


DAPHNE!
THEY WERE
JUST TRYING
TO HELP.

I DON'T
WANT HELP --
I WANNA BE LEFT
ALONE!

COME BACK
HERE!

LOOK, THE
ECLIPSE!

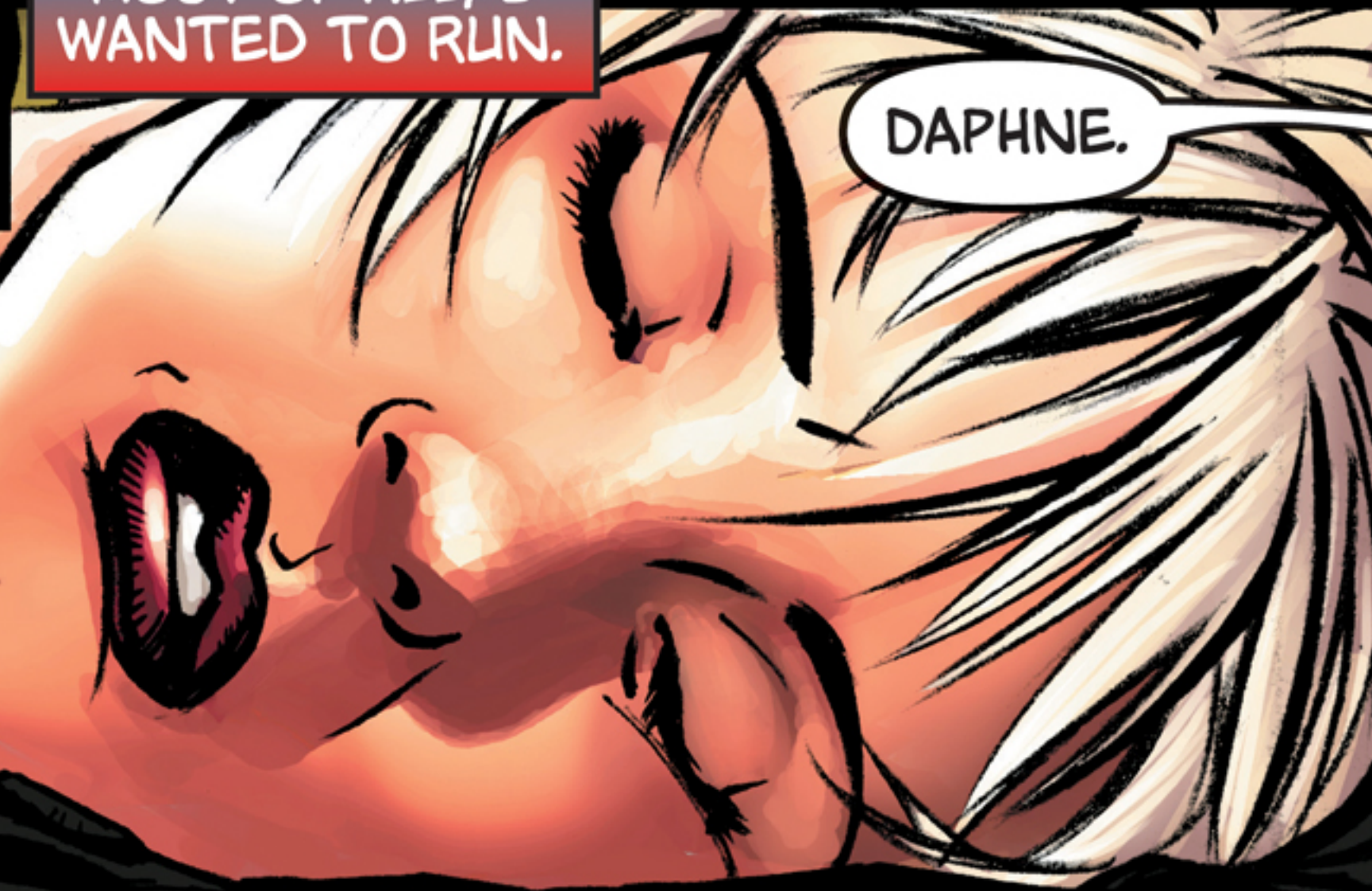


I NEEDED TO SCREAM BUT
COULDN'T. I WANTED OUT
OF MY YARD AND MY TOWN.

I WANTED TO WALK THE SEINE RIVER
IN PARIS. TRAVEL THE WORLD. RUN.



MOST OF ALL, I
WANTED TO RUN.



DAPHNE.



MOM?

MY SWEET BIRD,
IT'S TIME TO STOP
LIVING LIKE YOU'LL
NEVER AMOUNT TO
ANYTHING.

IT WAS A CONVERSATION
WE'D HAD SO MANY TIMES.



I'M A CRIPPLE, REMEMBER?
I'LL NEVER BE WHAT
YOU WERE --

YOU'RE
WRONG. YOU'RE
SPECIAL.

I'M NOT.

DON'T LET
THOSE BRACES HOLD
YOU BACK. YOU'LL
LEAVE THIS CAGE AND
NEVER LOOK BACK.
STAND UP!



MEMORIES. THE PAST. ONLY
THIS TIME, I ACTUALLY
HEARD HER WORDS.

BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF
THE CAGE. I WANTED TO
FEEL THE WIND ON MY FACE.

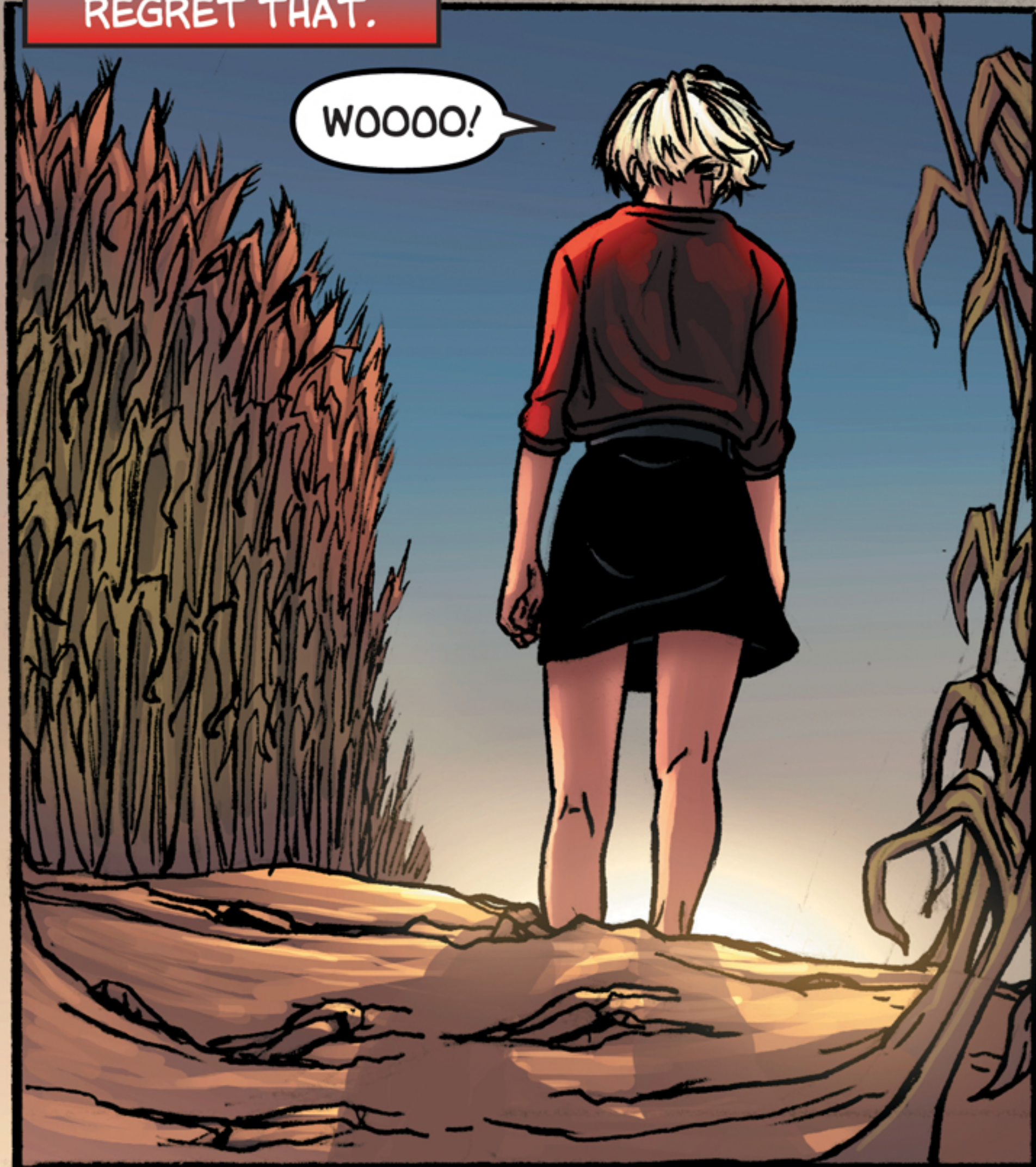
SO I DROPPED THE BRACES.
I RAN TOWARDS A NEW LIFE.

OH. MY.
GOD.



AND I DON'T EVER
REGRET THAT.

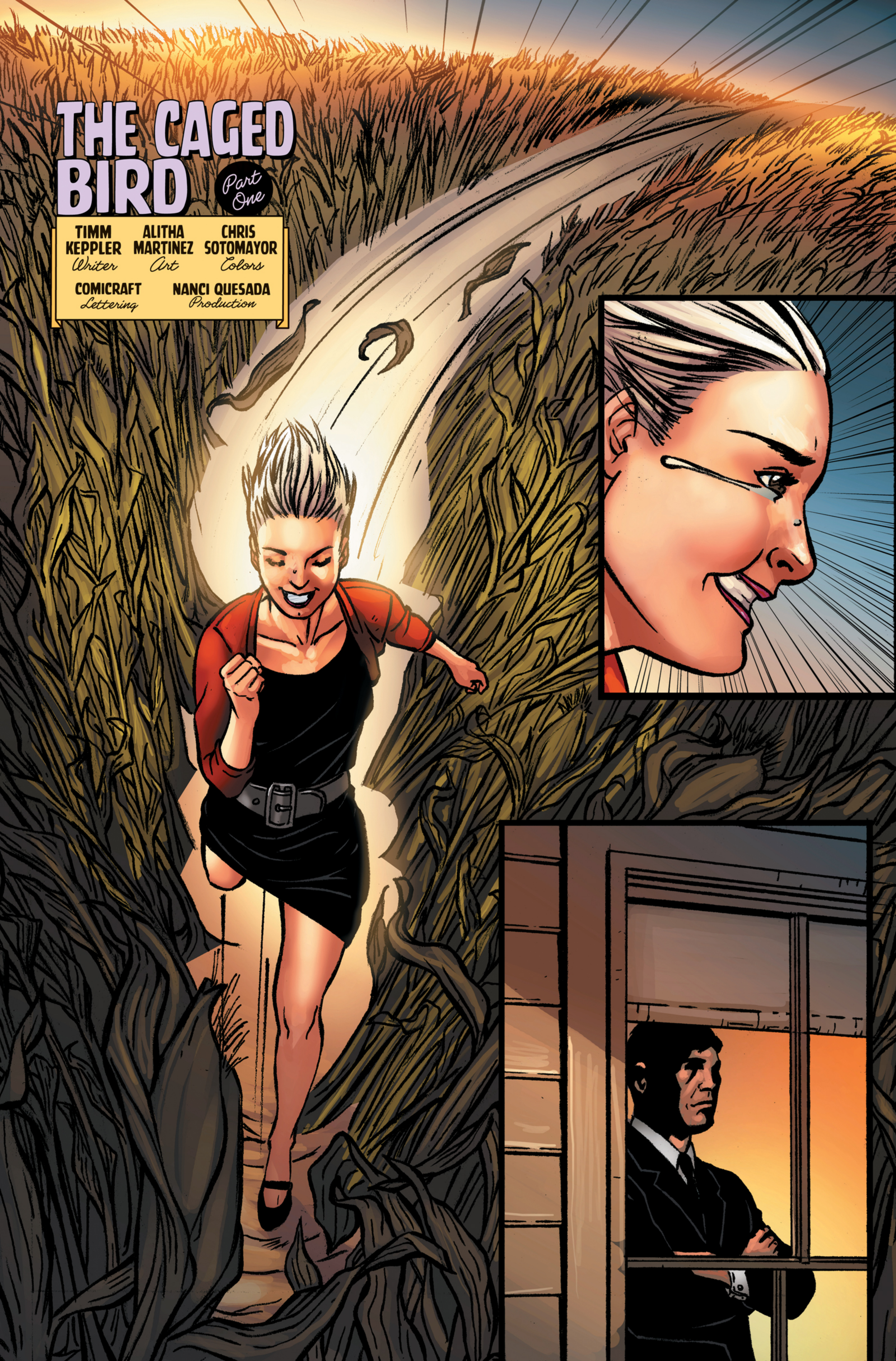
WOOOO!

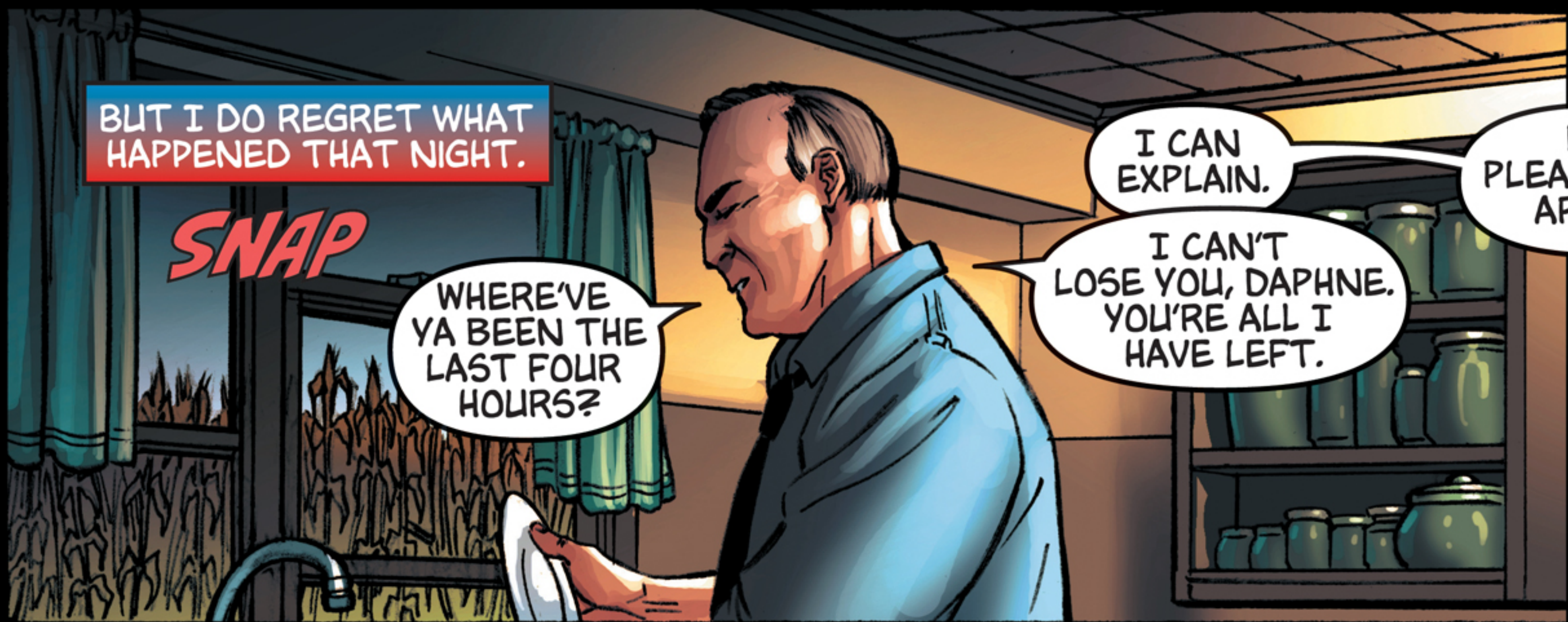


THE CAGED BIRD

Part One

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<i>Writer</i>	<i>Art</i>	<i>Colors</i>
COMICRAFT	NANCI QUESADA	
<i>Lettering</i>	<i>Production</i>	





BUT I DO REGRET WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.

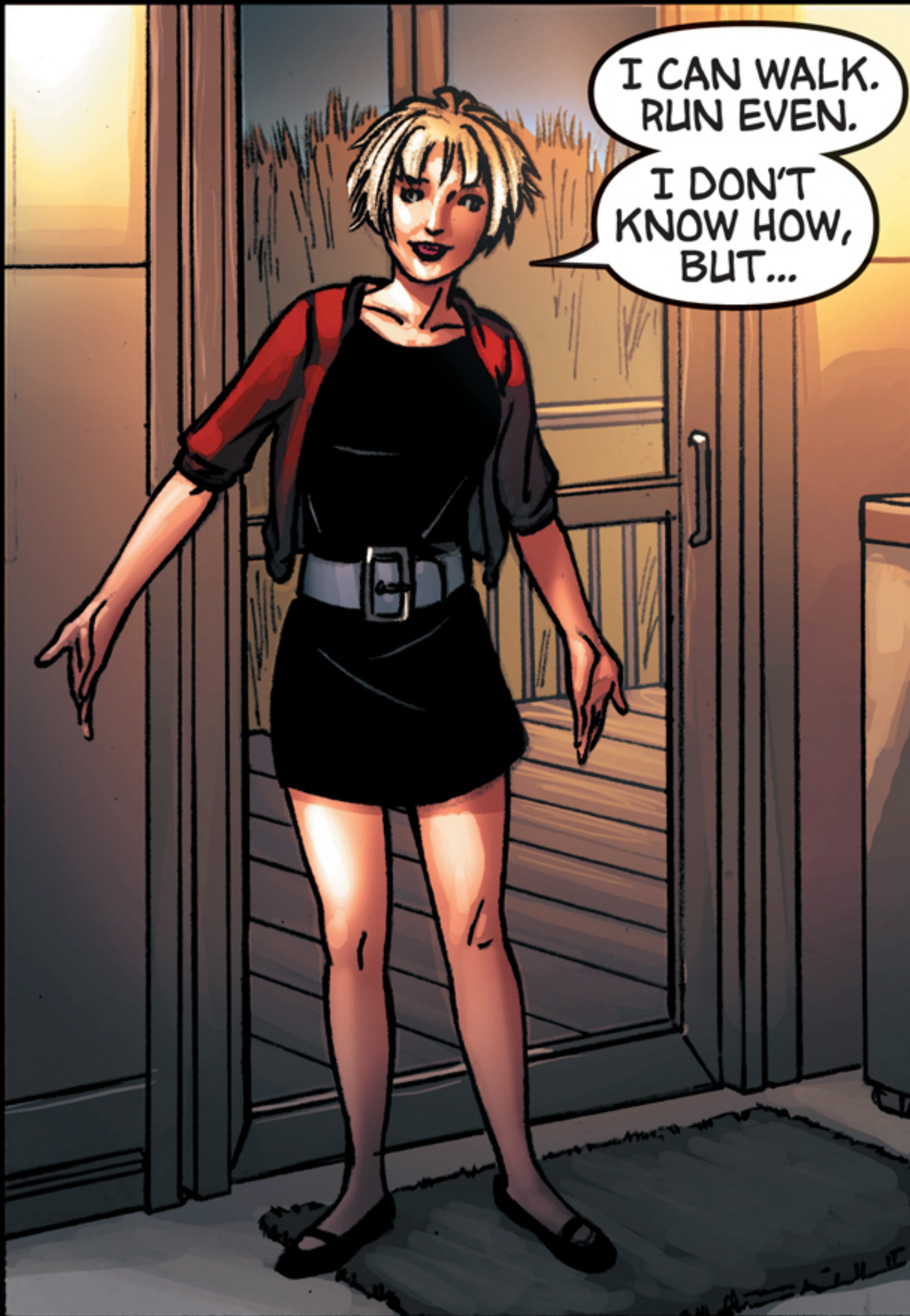
SNAP

WHERE'VE YA BEEN THE LAST FOUR HOURS?

I CAN EXPLAIN.

I CAN'T LOSE YOU, DAPHNE. YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT.

DAD, PLEASE. TURN AROUND.



I CAN WALK. RUN EVEN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT...



AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?

I WISH YOUR MOTHER WERE HERE TO SEE THIS.

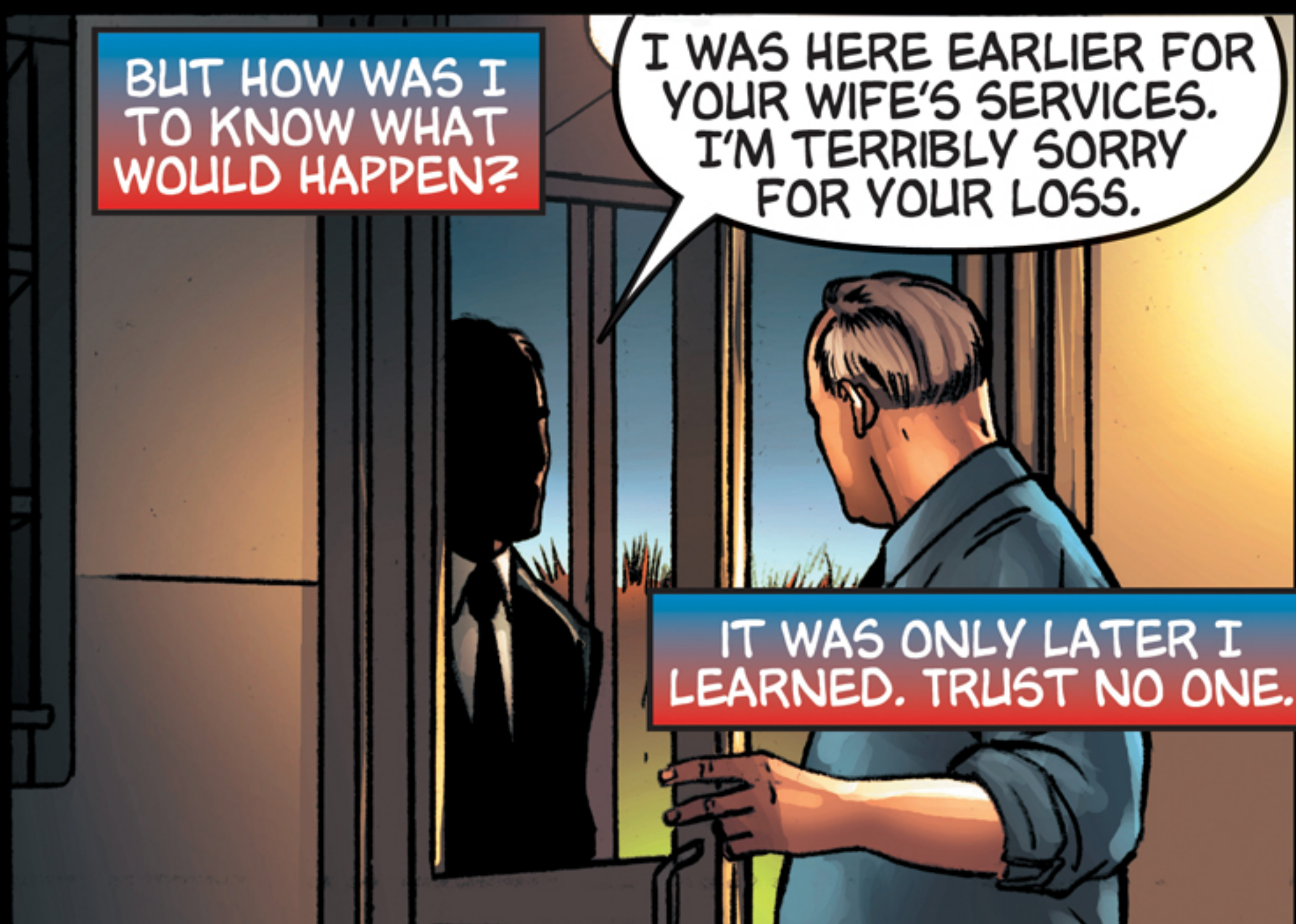
KNOCK KNOCK



I SHOULD HAVE GRABBED HIM RIGHT THEN AND RUN.

HI FOLKS, I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

YES, WHAT IS IT?



BUT HOW WAS I TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

I WAS HERE EARLIER FOR YOUR WIFE'S SERVICES. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

IT WAS ONLY LATER I LEARNED. TRUST NO ONE.



THE NAME'S THOMPSON. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.

TO BE CONTINUED...